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May 29, 1980

NEW BOOK PROBES ENERGY ISSUES

NEW YORK -- "The Prometheus Question," an Episcopal Church resource book on energy issues will be published by the Seabury Press in early summer.

The book, first of a "Jubilee Series" of issue studies prepared through the Episcopal Church's National Hunger Committee, is edited by the Rev. Charles A. Cesaretti. It grows out of the 1978 work of the Church's energy task force which was chaired by Dr. Bruce Merrifield.

The book is focused on a four-part adult Bible study and discussion section which employs readings from a series of "vignettes" written by Episcopalians about personal experiences with facets of the energy issues and a series of articles reprinted from the popular press such as the "Christian Science Monitor," "Newsweek" and the "New Yorker."

"The format," Father Cesaretti explained, "brings a wide range of highly personal experience and reaction into focus as well as providing an opportunity to review and analyze the ways in which the popular press covers the energy issue."

The settings of the vignettes range from California through the Navajo reservation, Puerto Rico, and Appalachia to affluent northern suburbs and describe a variety of incidents in which Christians have been forced to confront energy issues.

The Jubilee Series, named after the call in Leviticus 25 for a feast recalling the people to stewardship and faith in God's providence will also examine land use and lifestyles in later volumes.

In a paper announcing the publication, Dr. David Crean, Hunger Staff Officer of the Episcopal Church Center, highlighted some of the links between energy and food issues:

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NEW YORK -- "The Promissory Question," an Episcopal Church Progress

book on energy issues will be published by the Diocesan Press in early summer.

The book, first of a "Jubilee Series" of issue studies presented through the

Episcopal Church's National Hunger Committee, is edited by the Rev. Charles A. Goss-

nell. It grows out of the 1975 work of the Church's energy task force which was formed

by Dr. Bruce Schindler.

The book is focused on a four-part study with the following questions which

explores readings from a series of "vigilant" writers on episcopalianism about national ex-

periences with facets of the energy issues and a series of articles reprinted from the popular

press such as the "Christian Science Monitor," "Newsweek" and the "New Yorker."

The format, "Faith Community Studies," follows a wide range of subjects

from experience and reaction to issues as well as providing an opportunity for prayer and

reflection on ways to solve the energy issues.

The settings of the vignettes range from California through the North

west, the South, and elsewhere in different national settings and describe a variety of

issues in which Christians have been involved in national energy issues.

The Jubilee Series, named after the call to Jubilee in the Bible, is a series of

books to encourage the faith in God's providence will also examine the role of the

in their relations.

In a paper announcing the publication, Dr. David Gossnell, Bishop of the

of the Episcopal Church Center, highlighted some of the links between energy and faith.

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"One connection is with the total U.S. food production system. Energy used in the U.S. food cycle amounts to about 12 percent of the total energy consumption. Of this, over half is used in agriculture and food processing.

"It follows that we should not only be concerned about U.S. energy use simply in dealing with our food supply. It has been calculated that to feed a world population of four billion for one year on an average would take 488 billion gallons of fuel or some 3.5 percent of the known oil reserves! Moreover, even though yields per acre have increased, it can be shown that we have passed the point of diminishing returns in terms of energy input compared to food yield, at least as far as corn is concerned."

"The Prometheus Question: A Moral and Theological Perspective on the Energy Crisis" is available in paperback from the Seabury Press, Somers Service Center, Somers, Conn. 06071. The cost is \$3.95.

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PICTURE CAPTION

80197 "The Prometheus Question: A Moral and Theological Perspective on the Energy Crisis" has been published by the Seabury Press in cooperation with the Episcopal Church National Hunger Committee. Edited by the Rev. Charles A. Cesaretti, the study book is based on four adult Bible study-discussions sections and contains personal experiences and selections from the popular press as resources. The General Convention asked that Episcopalians undertake a study of energy issues.

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"The comparison is with the total U.S. food production system. Energy used in the U.S. food system amounts to about 1.5 percent of the total energy consumption. Of this, most will be used in agriculture and food processing.

"It follows that we should not only be concerned about U.S. energy and supply in dealing with our food supply. It has been calculated that to feed a world population of four billion the one year as an average would take 400 billion calories of food or 400 percent of the known oil resources. However, even though the oil resources are not unlimited, it can be shown that we have passed the point of diminishing returns in the use of energy input compared to food yield. At least another 50 years is estimated."

"The Problematic Question: A World and Theoretical Perspective on the Energy Crisis? is available in paperback from the Energy Press, London. Price: 10s. 6d. (10s. 0d. in U.S.). The book is 200 pp.

FIGURE CAPTION

Figure 1: "The Problematic Question: A World and Theoretical Perspective on the Energy Crisis" has been published by the Energy Press in cooperation with the International National Higher Commission. Edited by the Rev. Charles A. O'Connell, the study is based on four main Bible study-discussion sessions and contains several appendices and references from the papers given at the conference. The General Convention would also Episcopalian undertake a study of energy issues.

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